

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of reconstructing an original block of data, the data comprising at least one of audio data, video data, and a computer file, the method comprising:
 - accessing a plurality of data clips;
 - identifying matching sub-clips in two of the plurality of data clips;
 - aligning the two data clips at the matching sub-clips; and
 - appending the two aligned data clips and including a single instance of the matching sub-clip.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein appending comprises:
 - concatenating the two aligned data clips; and
 - omitting a second instance of the matching sub-clip.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the appending comprises:
 - substituting data in a first of the two data clips with data in a second of the two data clips.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the accessing comprises:
 - receiving at least one of the plurality of data clips over a communication link.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the accessing comprises:
 - retrieving at least one of the plurality of data clips from local storage.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the identifying comprises:
 - performing digital signal processing operations upon the plurality of data clips.
7. A method comprising:
 - accessing a plurality of blocks of data, the data comprising at least one of audio data, video data, and a computer file;
 - performing digital signal processing operations to identify at least one first sub-clip which is substantially dissimilar in a first of the plurality of blocks than in a second of the plurality of blocks, and at least one second sub-clip which is substantially similar in at least two of the plurality of blocks; and

responsive to the digital signal processing operations,

copying the at least one second sub-clip to a golden block,

determining which of the first and second of the plurality of blocks has a first sub-clip

that is superior to the first sub-clip of the other of the first and second of the plurality of blocks, and

copying the superior sub-clip to the golden block.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein:

the determining comprises identifying a sub-clip containing defective values.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein:

the identifying the sub-clip containing defective values comprises performing digital signal processing operations on sub-clips.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein:

the determining comprises performing a majority operation across corresponding sub-clips of the plurality of blocks.

11. The method of claim 7 wherein:

the identifying the sub-clip containing defective values comprises identifying a null sub-clip indicative of missing values.

12. An apparatus comprising:

a digital signal processor;

a content storage capable of storing a plurality of blocks of data, the data comprising at least one of audio data, video data, and a computer file;

a block manager;

a clip overlap comparator; and

a clip compiler.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising:

a communication interface capable of receiving blocks of data comprising at least one of audio data, video data, and a computer file.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising:

a level normalizer.

15. The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising:
an equalizer.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising:
a timbre adjuster.

17. A system comprising:
a network;
a plurality of data sources each including,
content storage storing at least one block of data, and
a communication interface coupled to the network;
at least one of the data sources further including,
a digital signal processor,
a block manager,
a clip overlap comparator, and
a clip compiler.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein the at least one of the data sources further includes:
a level normalizer; and
an equalizer.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein the at least one of the data sources further includes:
a timbre adjuster.

20. A method of restoring a data block, the data block including at least one of audio and video
data, the method comprising:
identifying a plurality of data blocks each available from a respective data source coupled to a
network; and
creating a golden block by,
analyzing sets of corresponding sub-clips from respective ones of the plurality of data
blocks,

responsive to the analyzing, for a first given set of corresponding sub-clips which the analysis indicates are substantially similar, generating in the golden block a sub-clip substantially similar to the first given set,

responsive to the analyzing, for a second given set of corresponding sub-clips which the analysis indicates are not substantially similar, generating in the golden block a sub-clip substantially similar to a sub-set of the second given set.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the analyzing comprises:
performing digital signal processing operations.

22. The method of claim 20 wherein the generating the sub-clip substantially similar to the sub-set of the second given set comprises:
identifying a majority of the sub-clips in the second given set as being substantially similar to each other; and
generating in the golden block a sub-clip substantially similar to the majority.

23. The method of claim 20 wherein the generating the sub-clip substantially similar to the sub-set of the second given set comprises:
identifying a most common sub-clip in the second given set; and
generating in the golden block a sub-clip substantially similar to the most common sub-clip.

24. The method of claim 20 wherein the generating the sub-clip substantially similar to the sub-set of the second given set comprises:
identifying one of the blocks as having a sub-clip which is more similar to other sub-clips in the one block, than corresponding sub-clips in other blocks are to other sub-clips in those respective other blocks; and
generating in the golden block a sub-clip substantially similar to the sub-clip which is more similar.

25. The method of claim 20 wherein the generating the sub-clip substantially similar to the sub-set of the second given set comprises:
identifying a null sub-clip in one of the blocks; and

4 generating in the golden block a sub-clip substantially similar to a sub-clip in another of the
5 blocks.

1 26. A method of generating a golden master of an audio recording, the method comprising:
2 comparing corresponding instances of sub-clips of the audio recording from a plurality of
3 sources of instances of the audio recording; and
4 for each respective sub-clip, generating a sub-clip in the golden master substantially similar
5 to at least one corresponding instance of the respective sub-clip.

1 27. The method of claim 26 wherein the generating comprises:
2 identifying a most common instance of the respective sub-clip; and
3 generating the sub-clip in the golden master in response to the most common instance.

1 28. The method of claim 27 wherein the identifying the most common instance comprises:
2 identifying a majority sub-clip.

1 29. The method of claim 26 wherein:
2 the comparing includes identifying an instance of the sub-clip having lesser audio distortion
3 than another instance of the sub-clip; and
4 the generating includes creating the sub-clip in the golden master in accordance with the
5 identified instance having lesser audio distortion.

1 30. The method of claim 29 wherein:
2 the audio distortion includes at least one of click, pop, wow, and flutter.

1 31. The method of claim 26 further comprising:
2 receiving the plurality of instances of sub-clips from the plurality sources over a
3 communication interface.

1 32. The method of claim 31 wherein the receiving comprises:
2 receiving intact instances of the audio recording from the plurality of sources over the
3 communication interface.

1 33. The method of claim 26 further comprising:

2 receiving, over a communication interface from the plurality of sources, a plurality of digital
3 signal processing results representing respective instances of the sub-clips.

1 34. The method of claim 26 further comprising:
2 distributing the golden master over a communication interface.

1 35. The method of claim 26 further comprising:
2 altering an audio characteristic of a first sub-clip in the golden master to increase audio
3 similarity of the first sub-clip to other sub-clips in the golden master.

1 36. The method of claim 35 wherein:
2 the altering includes at least one of normalizing level, equalizing, and adjusting timbre.

1 37. The method of claim 26 further comprising:
2 receiving an identification of the audio recording; and
3 using the identification in requesting the instances of sub-clips from at least one source.

1 38. The method of claim 37 wherein:
2 the requesting comprises requesting from remote sources over a network.

1 39. The method of claim 37 wherein:
2 the requesting the instances of sub-clips comprises requesting instances of the audio
3 recording.

1 40. The method of claim 39 wherein:
2 the requesting comprises requesting from remote sources over a network.

1 41. The method of claim 36 wherein:
2 the sub-clips further comprise video data; and
3 the golden master further comprises video data.

1 42. The method of claim 36 further comprising:
2 indicating to external sources at least one known sub-clip and an identification of at least one
3 desired sub-clip.

1 43. The method of claim 42 further comprising:

receiving a clip from an external source;
finding the known sub-clip in the clip received from the external source; and
responsive to the finding, obtaining the desired sub-clip from the clip received from the
external source.

44. An article of manufacture bearing machine-accessible instructions which, when accessed by a
machine, cause the machine to:
perform the method of claim 1.

45. The article of manufacture of claim 44 further bearing instructions which, when accessed by
the machine, cause the machine to:
perform the method of claim 2.

46. An article of manufacture bearing machine-accessible instructions which, when accessed by a
machine, cause the machine to:
perform the method of claim 7.

47. The article of manufacture of claim 46 further bearing instructions which, when accessed by
the machine, cause the machine to:
perform the method of claim 9.

48. An article of manufacture bearing machine-accessible instructions which, when accessed by a
machine, cause the machine to:
perform the method of claim 20.

49. The article of manufacture of claim 48 further bearing instructions which, when accessed by
the machine, cause the machine to:
perform the method of claim 24.

50. An article of manufacture bearing machine-accessible instructions which, when accessed by a
machine, cause the machine to:
perform the method of claim 26.

51. The article of manufacture of claim 50 further bearing instructions which, when accessed by
the machine, cause the machine to:

perform the method of claim 35.

52. A business method comprising:

publishing an identification of a block of data, the data including at least one of audio and video data;

receiving a plurality of instances of the block from a plurality of persons;

creating a golden master of the block by selectively extracting best sub-clips from the plurality of instances of the block; and

rewarding at least one of the persons.

53. The business method of claim 52 wherein the rewarding comprises:

making a financial payment to at least one of the persons, from whose instance of the block at least one sub-clip was extracted to the golden master.

54. The business method of claim 53 wherein:

the financial payment is made to a person from whose block a largest number of sub-clips were extracted to the golden master.